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# News Release

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## **Forest Service Releases Report for Forest-Level Listening Sessions on Upcoming Forest Plan Revisions**

**Portland, Ore.** – The U.S. Forest Service released the summary report of the forest-level listening sessions on revising forest management plans held April-June 2015.

This report synthesizes feedback gathered at the 16 local forest-level listening sessions held across the Pacific Northwest to gather feedback from the public about plan revisions. Nearly 700 people attended these forest-level listening sessions, sharing a broad range of ideas that will help shape the plan revision strategy.

“This is only the beginning of our work with the public and partners around revising our plans,” said Jim Peña, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester. “So far, the feedback has been invaluable and we are delighted at the high level of interest in forest plan revisions.”

According to Peña, these sessions were held in response to a strong desire for more public engagement opportunities following the three bi-regional listening sessions held in Northern California, Oregon and Washington in March 2015. The listening sessions were centered on three main focus areas: public engagement during plan revision, the use of science, as well as the general plan revision process or people’s specific interests in plan revision.

According to the report, two of the most common messages heard during the public engagement roundtables at the listening sessions were that people would like a transparent and clear plan revision process and that people want their feedback to matter. Participants offered a variety of ideas for sharing information, reaching more people, and engaging with the public, including more face-to-face meetings, field tours, and surveys.

On the science front, there was a strong interest in how science should be incorporated into the plans and methods for how to ensure common understanding of the scientific process. Finally, a wide range of issues and concerns were raised related to the plan revision strategy and process itself during the listening sessions which are outlined in the report.



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

*(continued)*

The Forest Service will continue a public conversation on revising forest land management plans for the Oregon, Washington, and Northern California. The agency is currently in the pre-plan revision stage and is developing a strategy and timeline that incorporates listening session feedback.

“We greatly value and need the input from the public to make plan revision happen, so to the many hundreds of you that helped make these listening sessions such a success, we thank you,” said Emily Platt, Planning Specialist for the Forest Service Pacific Northwest region.

The listening session reports for both the bi-regional sessions and local forest-level sessions are available at <http://1.usa.gov/1J4s7qn>

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